

IN HONOR OF THE REOPENING OF
THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL &
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CEN-
TER

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the reopening of the newly renovated and recently renamed Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center located in New York City. The stated mission of the Center is to provide a home for the birth, nurture and celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender organizations, institutions and culture. For nearly two decades the Center has successfully fulfilled that mission by providing groups and individuals a safe space in which to achieve their fullest potential. The newly renovated space at 208 West 13th Street in Manhattan, will be a permanent home for the local LGBT community, fostering creativity, compassion, and activism.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center has long been a beacon of hope for many in the community, serving thousands upon thousands of residents from all walks of life and from every corner of the world. The Center is not only a host to a wide variety of civic, athletic, health, and cultural groups, but it also provides an array of its own programming. Programs such as Project Connect, CenterBridge, Center Kids, the Pat Parker/Vito Russo Center Library, and the National Museum and Archive of Lesbian and Gay History add to the expansive fabric that binds New York's LGBT Community.

Mr. Speaker, I salute The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center in its ongoing effort to better enrich the LGBT Community and society as a whole. I am eminently proud to represent such a living landmark. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing them well and all the hope for the future in their new spectacular facility.

HONORING SUPERINTENDENT
GEORGE KELEDJIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Central Unified School District Superintendent George Keledjian. After many years of dedicated service to the district and the community, Mr. Keledjian has announced his plans to retire.

George Keledjian has an extensive educational background and a remarkable life story. After completing high school in Cyprus, Keledjian attended the Teacher's Training Institute where he decided education would be his focal point. While teaching high school in Lebanon, he earned the equivalent of three dollars a month. After five years of teaching in Lebanon, he boarded a ship for Pasadena, CA. Keledjian then attended Point Loma Nazarene College. After four years of schooling he

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received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees, both in Education. He began working towards his Ph.D., but due to a serious car accident he was unable to obtain his degree. After many years teaching at a junior high school in Southern California, George Keledjian came to Fresno, CA in 1966. He became Principal at Madison Elementary School in 1971. In 1984, he accepted the position of Superintendent of Central Unified School District.

In his 35 years with the district, Keledjian has overseen the building of five new schools and the renovation of many others. Performance on standardized test scores has increased to above state and county averages. Under George Keledjian's management, the district's General Fund remains financially solvent. He has also led many Central Unified schools to recognition for various awards. Two schools were recognized as California State Distinguished Schools; one school was recognized as a Bonner Foundation Virtues and Character School; two schools were recognized as 2000 Governor's Reading Award Recipients; and Central Unified's Future Farmers of America program is recognized nationally.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to George Keledjian for his accomplishments and his years of service to Central Unified School District. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing George Keledjian a happy retirement.

ADAK ISLAND TRANSFER LEGISLATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will facilitate and promote the successful commercial reuse of the former Naval Air Facility on Adak Island, Alaska. At the same time, this legislation will allow the Aleut people of Alaska to reclaim the island and to make use of its modern developments and important location.

The legislation I introduce today ratifies an agreement between The Aleut Corporation, an Alaska Native Regional Corporation, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of the Navy. "The Agreement Concerning the Conveyance of Property at the Adak Naval Complex, Adak," Alaska was signed last September and is the result of more than four years of discussions and negotiations among the three parties.

The bill and the Agreement also further the conservation of important wildlife habitat. A portion of Adak is within the Aleutian Islands subunit of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. The Agreement facilitates the Department of the Interior's continued management and protection of the Refuge lands on Adak and even adds some of the Navy lands to the Refuge. Moreover, in exchange for the developed Navy lands, which are not suitable for the Refuge, but are commercially useful, The Aleut Corporation will convey environmentally sensitive lands it holds elsewhere in the Refuge to the Department of the Interior.

For many years the Navy was an important constituent in Alaska's Aleutian Chain. Its

presence was first established during World War II with the selection and development of the island because of its combination of ability to support a major airfield and its natural and protected deep water port. The Navy's presence there contributed greatly to the defense of our Pacific coast during World War II and throughout the Cold War. Through the Navy's presence, Adak became the largest development in the Aleutians as well as Alaska's sixth largest community. With the end of The Cold War our defense needs changed, however, and Adak was selected for closure during the last base closure round.

Those very same features that made Adak strategically important for defense purposes also make it important for commercial purposes. Adak is a natural stepping stone to Asia and is at the crossroads of air and sea trade between North America, Europe, and Asia. With the ability to use Adak commercially, the Aleut people, through The Aleut Corporation can establish it as an important intercontinental location with enterprise enough to provide year round jobs for the Aleut people. These goals are consistent with the promises and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the legislation that created the corporation.

This rebirth of Adak is already well underway. The Aleut people assumed responsibility for the operation of the Island from the Navy last October and there are a number of new commercial enterprises and endeavors. At the same time a new community has begun to take shape. Just last month the new City of Adak was established as a result of a public referendum and is in the process of taking over responsibility for the many public facilities.

The Agreement resolves a number of important issues related to the transfer of this former military base and the establishment of the new community on Adak, including responsibility for environmental remediation, institutional controls, indemnification, required public access, and reservation of lands for government use.

This legislation furthers this country's objectives of conversion of closed defense facilities into successful commercial reuse, it benefits the Aleut people and restores them to their ancestral lands and it benefits the National Wildlife Refuge System. I believe everyone will agree that such legislation is important and worthy of our support.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it is far past the time for us to address the intolerable discrimination in drug pricing and provide a comprehensive prescription drug benefit now. These drug re-importation amendments fail to address the real issue of the lack of affordable prescription drugs and in turn provide no real relief.

Seniors should be able to buy American prescription drugs for the same price in Rochester as you can in Rio, in Mankato as you